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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 002044

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/05/2013

TAGS: [AEMR](#) [AMGT](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [CVIS](#) [EFIN](#) [ETRD](#) [IZ](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: TFIZ01: AMMAN SITREP 28 (4/05 1000 LOCAL)

REF: AMMAN 2033

Classified By: DCM Gregory L. Berry for reasons 1.5 (B)(D).

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General Overview  
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[11.](#) (SBU) The Embassy is closed April 5 for the Jordanian weekend. It will reopen for regular business on Sunday, April 6. The movement of American staff remains restricted.

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Consular Issues  
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[12.](#) (U) Nothing new to report.

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GOJ Actions/Statements  
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[13.](#) (C) Nothing new to report.

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Security  
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[14.](#) (C) Demonstrations were held in Amman April 4. Between 5,000 - 7,000 participants marched from a downtown mosque to a GOJ municipal building in a licensed demonstration. PSD and embassy contacts report the march was spirited and full of anti-USG and "pro-Saddam" slogans, but was peaceful. In the Shmeisani area, a few hundred people marched in a licensed march from the professional associations complex to the UN headquarters.

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Economic and Trade Developments  
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[15.](#) (U) Nothing new to report.

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Refugee/Humanitarian Issues  
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[16.](#) (SBU) The Jordan-Iraq border remains open. REFCOORD visited Ruwayshid April 5 and reported 246 third country nationals currently at the UNHCR camp. 8 TCNs crossed into Jordan during the night of April 3-4 9 TCNs crossed during the night of April 4-5. As of April 5, three Palestinian families attempting to transit into Jordan were waiting at the border as their documents are sorted out.

[17.](#) (SBU) UNHCR reports GOJ authorities continue to allow Iraqis with onward airline tickets, valid visas and "sufficient funds" to transit Jordan en route to other countries. Reportedly, a "handful" of Iraqis enter Jordan daily under these circumstances. In one case where an Iraqi family wanted to stay in Jordan prior to transiting out, GOJ authorities were reportedly willing to permit their entry so long as they registered with UNHCR as asylum seekers and stayed in the refugee camp. In this case, the family reportedly refused to register as refugees and were returned to Iraq. UNHCR says they are tracking such cases "very closely."

[18.](#) (SBU) The Embassy received a phone call during the evening of April 4 from Kate Rowland of the Italy-based humanitarian group "Emergency." Rowland said that a group consisting of five persons (including a surgeon, nurse, and anesthesiologist) planned to travel from Amman to Baghdad either Sunday April 6 or Monday April 7 in a convoy of two large trucks and two trailers carrying medical supplies. Rowland said the trucks and trailers will bear the "Emergency" logo. Embassy Crisis Liaison Unit conveyed this information to Task Force West personnel in the Embassy and to the PRM duty officer at TFI in Washington. Kate Rowland's contact information in Amman is as follows: Sheraton Hotel (962-6-593-4111), room 419, or international cell number [003933358189598](#). Rowland said she would pass on additional information on the convoy's travel plans when they become available. Based on the information provided, it appears there are no AMCITS traveling in this group.

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Press  
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9. (C) The convoy of three to four GMC suburban-type vehicles carrying journalists from various western news organizations that set out from Amman for Baghdad the morning of April 4 reportedly arrived in Baghdad late night April 4 (reftel A). There are no AMCITS in the group. The US military public affairs officer detailed to Jordan is aware of the situation.

10. (C) Rounding out the government's three-day effort to align its public stance more closely with the feelings of an angry nation, Jordan's state-owned and influenced media April 4 played up the PM's convoking of the Ambassador as evidence that the GOJ is taking tangible and meaningful steps to translate into action the people's opposition to the war (reftel B). Local reporting on the event also highlighted the Ambassador's remarks to the press expressing a common concern for the welfare of Iraqi civilians and a commitment to maintain that concern even as we pursue the objective of removing the Baathist regime.  
GNEHM